

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Previously Presented) The fluorescent detection system of claim 10, wherein each sample corresponds to one excitation light source and two detectors.
3. (Previously Presented) The fluorescent detection system of claim 10, wherein each sample corresponds to two excitation light sources and one detector.
4. (Original) The fluorescent detection system of claim 3, wherein the two excitation light sources are narrow band sources and the one detector is a broad band detector.
5. (Original) The fluorescent detection system of claim 4, wherein the excitation filter substantially rejects wavelengths outside those of the narrow band sources.
6. (Original) The fluorescent detection system of claim 5, wherein the emission filter substantially rejects wavelengths of the narrow band sources.

7. (Original) The analytical instrument of claim 6, wherein the excitation filter has a maximum wavelength of at most 535 nm and the excitation filter exhibits at least 80% efficiency in rejecting wavelengths greater than the maximum wavelength.

8. (Currently Amended) The analytical instrument of claim 7_6, wherein the emission filter has a minimum wavelength of at least 535 nm and the excitation filter exhibits at least about 80% efficiency in rejecting wavelengths less than the minimum wavelength.

9. (Original) The analytical instrument of claim 8, wherein the maximum wavelength is 10 nm or more shorter than the minimum wavelength.

10. (Previously Presented) A fluorescent detection system comprising:
an array of excitation light sources;
an array of detectors; and
a filter assembly comprising an excitation filter positioned for excitation light from the excitation light sources and an emission filter positioned for fluorescent light from an array of samples,
wherein the excitation filter and emission filter are positioned substantially parallel to each other, and
wherein the filter assembly comprises alternating portions of excitation filter and portions of emission filter.

11. (Original) The analytical instrument of claim 10, wherein the alternating portions are positioned in strips.

12. (Currently Amended) The analytical instrument of claim ~~11~~10, wherein the alternating portions are positioned in an staggered array.

13. (Previously Presented) The fluorescent detection system of claim 10, further comprising an array of focusing lenses.

14. (Original) The fluorescent detection system of claim 13, wherein each focusing lens corresponds to each sample.

15. (Original) The fluorescent detection system of claim 13, wherein a first set of focusing lenses corresponds to the excitation light and a second set of the focusing lenses corresponds to the fluorescent light.

16. (Previously Presented) The fluorescent detection system of claim 10, further comprising an array of collimating lenses.

17. (Original) The fluorescent detection system of claim 16, wherein the array of collimating lenses comprises a first set of collimating lenses for the excitation light and a second set of collimating lenses for the fluorescent light.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The filter assembly of claim 20, wherein the excitation filter and emission filter are separate structures coupled together.

20. (Previously Presented) A filter assembly comprising:
an excitation filter adapted to condition excitation light from an excitation light source;
and
an emission filter adapted to condition fluorescent light from a sample,
wherein the excitation filter and the emission filter are formed in alternating portions of the filter assembly, wherein the filter assembly is substantially flat, and
wherein the excitation filter and the emission filter form a lattice with nodes and openings.

21. (Original) The filter assembly of claim 20, wherein the nodes and openings are positioned in a staggered array.

22. (Previously Presented) The filter assembly of claim 10, wherein the excitation filter and the emission filter are part of one substrate.

23. (Original) The filter assembly of claim 22, wherein the excitation filter comprises a coating on the substrate.

24. (Original) The filter assembly of claim 22, wherein the emission filter comprises a coating on the substrate.

25. (Original) The filter assembly of claim 22, wherein the substrate comprises a first layer configured to provide the excitation filter and a second layer configured to provide the emission filter.

26.- 30. (Cancelled)